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NATIONAL FOREST WILDERNESS AREAS

The national Forests contain some of the last frontiers of the United States. Within their boundaries are many of the remaining areas which still exist in much the same state as when the first waves of settlement extended through the country. They embrace many of the mountain ranges and peaks that in the early days served not only as landmarks to the pioneers but as spiritual symbols of a new world and a new life. We have been conquering and subduing the Nation's wild areas by motor highways, by mechanized transportation, and by the congregation of increasing numbers of people who bring with them all the social and mechanical devices developed by civilization. As modern developments continue, it has become increasingly desirable, in the interests of recreation, public education and science, that representative areas of our original wilderness be preserved.

As a major contribution toward the satisfaction of this need, the United States Forest Service has designated seventy-two areas within the National Forests to be maintained in a wilderness status. They embrace a total of fourteen million acres on eighty-one National Forests in twelve states. Twenty-eight of the seventy-two established areas exceed one hundred thousand acres in extent and are known as "Wilderness Areas." Forty-two of smaller size but of five thousand or more acres each are called "Wild Areas." Two, on which restriction of commercial use is less rigid, are designated as "Roadless Areas."

Use of the areas is restricted to such activities as are not inconsistent with wilderness values, which are considered dominant. Some of these areas are classified under the old Primitive Area designation; others under the new Wilderness and Wild Area regulations established by the Secretary of Agriculture in 1939. For convenience all areas whether actually classified as Primitive or Wilderness are now referred to as Wilderness or Wild areas, since, except for a few cases, their management is identical.

The total area thus reserved represents approximately eight percent of the total land area of the National Forests. At first glance this might appear to be a significant inroad on the nation's timber supply. However, while the areas are generally the best available to represent primitive conditions in various regions, they are usually the least productive of commercially valuable timber. Considerable

portions of these areas are above the timber line or support non-commercial timber growth. Most of the timber stands on the remaining portions are inaccessible because of location, or are surrounded by other productive stands fully capable of meeting local needs. The public is thus assured of preservation of the wilderness without material sacrifice of usable timber. When selecting these areas the Forest Service very carefully weighed the value of the area for wilderness as against its value for other public uses important to the economic welfare of the region.

Although many of these areas include terrain of outstanding scenic value, that was not the purpose for which they were established. They were selected as typical areas of the Rockies, Sierras, Cascades and other regions where nature may be observed "as is," and unmodified natural conditions maintained for the benefit of wilderness lovers and recreationists who really want to "rough it."

Areas of similar character exist in some of the National Forests of the East but not of sufficient size to be formally classified as Wild or Wilderness Areas. A number of these smaller remnants of primitive forests, located in the Appalachians, Alleghenies, and in the Presidential Range of the White Mountains, have been set aside by the Forest Service as "Natural Areas," "Memorial Forests," or under other designations which likewise provide for preservation of natural conditions.

Wilderness areas are designated by the Secretary of Agriculture upon recommendation of the Chief of the Forest Service. To come under this category, a tract of land must be at least 100,000 acres in size. Other specifications require that there be no roads or other provision for motorized transportation, no commercial timber cutting, and no occupancy under special use permit for hotels, stores, resorts, summer homes, organization camps, hunting and fishing lodges on such lands. In some cases roads may be necessary for ingress or egress to private property or mining claims, but in such cases the conditions under which they may be built are determined by the forest supervisor, and the boundary of the wilderness area is modified to exclude the portion affected by such a road.

Grazing of domestic livestock, development of water storage projects which do not involve road construction, and improvements necessary for fire protection may be permitted on wilderness areas, subject to such restriction as the Chief of the Forest Service deems desirable. Within designated wildernesses, the landing of airplanes on national forest land or water and the use of motor boats on national forest waters are prohibited, except where such uses has already become well established or is required for administrative needs and emergencies.

Regulations further provide that "wilderness areas will not be modified or eliminated except by order of the Secretary of Agriculture. Notice of every proposed establishment, modification, or elimination will

be published or publicly posted by the Forest Service for a period of at least 90 days prior to the approval of the contemplated order, and if there is any demand for a public hearing, the regional forester shall hold such hearing and make full report thereon to the Chief of the Forest Service, who will submit it with his recommendations to the Secretary." It is the policy of the Department of Agriculture to allow modifications of established wilderness areas only in exceptional cases of public need.

Similar regulations apply to the establishment and maintenance of the smaller "Wild Areas."

The Forest Service first began setting aside wilderness areas within the National Forests in 1928. The first areas designated were called "Primitive Areas," the terms "Wilderness" and "Wild" areas having been adopted when the regulations governing such areas were revised in 1939.

While there are some fourteen million acres of specially designated wilderness areas, practically all of the 176 million acres of National Forests in the United States are to a certain extend wilderness in character and would be thought of as wilderness by most people, since the Forest Service plan of management aims to preserve natural conditions on National Forests insofar as is consistent with public use. Above all else, the Forest Service takes into consideration human needs in administering the National Forests, and to this end, woodlands and regulated wild lands are, first and foremost, managed so that they will permanently contribute as much as possible to the welfare of the people, to the stability of homes and communities and to the solution of various national problems. Thus, lands within the National Forests are devoted to timber production, production of range forage for livestock, mining, watershed protection and waterpower development, game and wildlife production, recreation, and various other uses or combinations of uses, under carefully worked out plans of management which seek to coordinate all such uses and bring about "the greatest good for the greatest number of people in the long run." Within this pattern, which foresters call "multiple use management," it is believed that preservation of representative areas of wilderness has a place and serves a public need.

Other parts of the National Forests provide developed recreational facilities which include motor roads, improved camping and picnic grounds, boating, beaches, hotel resorts, winter sports developments, and other vacation aids. There are then within the National Forests opportunities for those who want to have their forest outings in motor cars and for those who want to get away from motor cars. The wilderness areas provide an opportunity for real wilderness outings far from any of the attributes of modern civilization. Some of the wilderness areas are comparatively difficult of access. To penetrate them with motor highways and resorts, however, would destroy their wilderness character.

Wilderness areas are open to the public without restrictions other than those essential to adequate protection from fire and vandalism. Botanists are enabled to view plant specimens in their natural habitat

And nature lovers have the advantage of exploring little-known haunts far from tourist-crowded highways.

Hunting and fishing are permitted in wilderness areas in accordance with State laws. In some instances, however, State game refuges overlap sections of wilderness tracts.

The canoe country of the Superior Roadless Area is unique. Literally thousands of lakes and miles of connecting rivers make a canoe country without parallel. The canoe camper, the wilderness enthusiast or the fisherman can spend weeks on one lake exploring its many bays and islands or can travel from lake to lake by connecting streams or by short, well-marked portages. The timbered shores offer excellent camp sites and there are trails along the low ridges for variety. Vacation trips in this area may be made at low cost -- $1.50 a day for a canoe is the whole cost except for food. Only persons physically unable to paddle or unable to swim need a guide and most parties go without one.

In the western mountain wilderness areas travel is by foot, horse-back or burro. Anyone experienced in the woods can travel the trails with safety, but handling horses and pack animals is a job only for experienced persons. A packer is almost an essential for most wilderness travelers. Packer-guides may be hired and riding horses and pack animals may be rented in the vicinity of most of the wilderness areas.

Trail travel with back-pack or with camp outfit on a single burro is quite popular, especially along the Cascades and Sierras. Long continuous trips can be made through Washington, Oregon and California, along well maintained trails, such as The Cascade Crest, Oregon Skyline, and John Muir trails. The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, and the Pacific Trail Conference are local organizations which sponsor trail travel. In the east the Appalachian Trail stretches from Maine to Georgia, traversing a number of National Forests and passes through the wildest remaining parts of the Appalachians.

Trail travel and camping whether afoot, horseback or by canoe opens to the travel a new world of beauty and wonder. No one who has not watched the sunrise and sunset from his own camp knows the meaning of wilderness or can appreciate the scenery, intimate and grand, that a 20-mile trail through forested mountain country reveals. It will far exceed what one sees riding many times as far by car.

Dude ranches operate near many of the wilderness areas in the West, and feature trips into the areas for their guests. Information on dude ranches can be obtained from railroad companies, or from the Dude Ranchers' Association, 21½ Broadway, Billings, Montana.

The Trail Riders of the Wilderness, organized in 1933 by the American Forestry Association, 919-17th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., conducts expeditions each summer to several western wilderness areas.

A list of the wilderness and wild areas, with brief descriptive data, follows. More detailed information on any particular area may be obtained by writing to the Forest Supervisor at the headquarters address given.

WILDERNESS AREAS AND WILD AREAS IN THE NATIONAL FORESTS

Arizona

Name	National Forest	Headquarters	Area (Acres)	Special Features
Blue Range Wilderness Area	Apache Crook	Springerville Safford	218,164	Largest remaining wilderness in Arizona. Traversed by Mogollon Rim with spruce and fir above and broken country in ponderosa pine below. Big game is abundant.
Mazatsal Wilderness Area	Tonto	Phoenix	205,346	Of precipitous topography containing many geologic formations.
Superstition Wilderness Area	Crook Tonto	Safford Phoenix	131,820	A land of desert and mountain brush types with occasional prominent peaks. Has been called "a land of enchantment".
Chiricahua Wild Area	Coronado	Tucson	17,280	Located on crest of Chiricahua Mountain Range. Scenic attractions and rock formations similar to Chiricahua National Monument. Among game species is the Chiricahua squirrel, found apparently only in these mountains.
Galiuro Wild Area	Crook	Safford	55,000	Knife-like mountains jutting out of the Arizona plain. Average slope is probably in excess of 85%. Hunting is good for experienced mountain hunters.
Mount Baldy Wild Area	Apache	Springerville	7,400	On the northeast slope of Mount Baldy at the head of the West Fork of the Little Colorado River. Elevation to 11,496 feet.
Pine Mountain Wild Area	Prescott Tonto	Prescott Phoenix	17,500	Moderately rough terrain along the Verde Rim. Included in a State Game Refuge.

Name	National Forest	Headquarters	Area (Acres)	Special Features
Sierra Ancha Wild Area	Tonto	Phoenix	32,600	Precipitous mountains including prehistoric cliff dwellings. Large game abundant.
Sycamore Canyon Wild Area	Conconino	Flagstaff		Includes a good representation of the canyon types of flora and fauna of Northern Arizona.
	Kaibab	Williams	47,230	
	Prescott	Prescott		
		California		
High Sierra Wilderness Area	Inyo	Bishop		Extends to an elevation of 12,200 feet on Goat Mountain with timber ranging from Jeffrey Pine to Alpine types.
	Sierra	Northfork	826,601	
	Sequoia	Porterville		
Marble Mountain Wilnderness Area	Klamath	Yreka	237,527	Supports a wide variety of timber types and species including the Brewer's spruce, a rare tree.
Middle Eel-Yolla Bolla Wilderness Area	Mendocino	Willows		Large variety of natural rugged scenery. Wild life abundant with some good fishing in early part of the season.
	Trinity	Weaverville	143,426	
Salmon Trinity Alps Wilderness Area	Klamath	Yreka		A region of scenic beauty, including granite peaks, many Alpine lakes, and numerous streams teeming with trout.
	Shasta	Mount Shasta	280,260	
	Trinity	Weaverville		

California (Continued)

Name	National Forest	Headquarters	Area (Acres)	Special Features
Agua Tibia Wild Area	Cleveland	San Diego	35,116	Includes some of the most highly scenic country in Southern California.
Caribou Peak Wild Area	Lassen	Susanville	16,443	A gentle, rolling, forested plateau adjoining Silver Lake in Northern California.
Cucamongo Wild Area	San Bernardino	San Bernardino	5,000	Gentle to rugged topography reaching a maximum altitude of 9,000 feet.
Desolation Valley Wild Area	Eldorado	Placerville	41,380	Extremely rough, rugged, and alpine in every respect. Elevations are from 6,500 to 10,020 feet.
Devil Canyon-Bear Canyon Wild Area	Angeles	Los Angeles	36,200	An area of deep canyons 40 miles by road from Los Angeles.
Emigrant Basis Wild Area	Stanislaus	Sonora	98,043	Includes many lakes, fine fishing, high granite topography.
Hoover Wild Area	Mono	Reno, Nev.	20,540	Contiguous with Yosemite National Park. Granite peaks approach 13,000 feet elevation. Heavy snows and glaciers occur.
Mt. Dana-Minarets Wild Area	Mono Sierra	Reno, Nev. Northfork	82,376	Highest mountain range in Southern California.
San Jacinto Wild Area	San Bernardino	San Bernardino	33,291	Level flats to precipitous cliffs.

California (Continued)

Name	National Forest	Headquarters	Area (Acres)	Special Features
San Rafael Wild Area	Los Padres	Santa Barbara	74,990	Embraces the main range of the San Rafael Mountains.
South Warner Wild Area	Modoc	Alturas	70,682	Contains a 15 mile ridge most of which is over 9,000 feet in elevation, numerous noted peaks, many small meadows and lakes.
Thousand Lake Valley Wild Area	Lassen	Susanville	16,335	Of varying topography, including the level Thousand Lake Valley of about 200 acres.
Ventana Wild Area	Los Padres	Santa Barbara	55,884	An area of low elevation but rugged terrain.
		Colorado		
Flat Tops Wilderness Area	White River	Glenwood Springs	117,800	Unique wilderness with attractions including excellent fishing and hunting. Has numerous ideal camping places.
San Juan Wilderness Area	San Juan	Durango	240,000	Includes virgin forests and rugged mountains with extensive and varied timberline areas. Fish and game are abundant.
Gore Range-Eagle West Wild Area	Arapaho Holy Cross	Idaho Springs Glenwood Spring	79,700	One of the most rugged, picturesque mountain ranges in Colorado.

Name	National Forest	Headquarters	Area (Acres)	Special Features
La Garita-Sheep Mountain Wild Area	Cochetopa	Salida	38,030	Considerable portion above timber Line. Within a game refuge it affords unusual opportunity for observation, especially of mountain sheep and elk.
Maroon-Snowmass Wild Area	Holy Cross	Glenwood Spring	64,600	This awe-inspiring area includes Snowmass Lake, Maroon Bells and Pyramid Peak. Mountain sheep summer and winter at Conundrum Hot Springs.
Mt. Shavano Wild Area	Cochetopa	Salida	32,100	Nearly 50% above timberline, ranging to 14,239 feet.
Mt. Zirkel-Dome Peak Wild Area	Routt	Steamboat Springs	43,120	Includes several high rugged peaks, beautiful fishing lakes, and protection stands of lodge-pole pine and Engelmann spruce timber.
Rawah Wild Area	Roosevelt	Fort Collins	25,720	In Medicine Bow Range. Includes a small glacier and numerous glacial lakes. Part of area is exceptionally rugged.
Uncompahgre Wild Area	Uncompahgre	Delta	69,253	A region of extremely rugged mountains, lakes, and waterfalls, Wildlife is varied and abundant.
Upper Rio Grande Wild Area	Rio Grande	Monte Vista	56,600	A mountainous area where wildlife is plentiful and fishing is the major recreational activity.

Colorado (Continued)

Name	National Forest	Headquarters	Area (Acres)	Special Features
West Elk Wild Area	Gunnison	Gunnison	52,000	Embraces portions of several high mountain ranges, open park ranges, lakes and rushing streams. Part of a game refuge.
Wilson Mountains Wild Area	Montezuma	Mancos	27,347	Includes five mountains and two major peaks of the Wilson Range. Large and small game are found in considerable numbers.
		Idaho		
Idaho Wilderness Area	Idaho	McCall	1,232,744	Rough, mountainous country with many large open areas and some small lakes. Fishing in some of the lakes and in Salmon River and its tributaries is excellent.
	Payette	Boise		
Sawtooth Wilderness Area	Boise	Boise	200,942	Of abruptly rising, broken topography with camping places along lakes and streams. Interesting fishing and a wide variety of small game.
	Challis	Challis		
	Sawtooth	Hailey		
Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area	Clearwater	Orofino	1,870,000	Mountainous, wooded area lying mostly west of the Bitterroot Range. Wildlife of great variety and abundance.
	Nezperce	Grangeville		
	Bitterroot (Mont.)	Hamilton (Mont.)		
		Minnesota		
Little Indian Sioux Roadless Area	Superior	Duluth	109,392	An area of endless lakes, admirably adapted to canoe travel.

Name	National Forest	Headquarters	Area (Acres)	Special Features
Superior Roadless Area	Superior	Duluth	927,158	Similar to Little Indian Sioux area but almost nine times as large.
		Montana		
Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness Area	Beaverhead	Dillon		Rough mountain territory distinguished by a chain of barren, precipitous peaks, from which drop long forested slopes.
	Bitterroot	Hamilton	145,000	
	Deerlodge	Butte		
Beartooth Wilderness Area	Absaroka	Livingston		Rugged high mountain area. Includes Granite peak, most lofty in Montana, and Grasshopper Glacier.
	Custer	Billings	230,000	
Bob Marshall Wilderness Area	Flathead	Kalispell		High mountainous area noted for good hunting and fishing, remoteness from commercial activity, and historic and geologic interest.
	Lewis & Clerk	Great Falls	950,000	
Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area	Bitterroot	Hamilton		Mountainous, wooded area lying mostly west of the Bitterroot Range. Wildlife of great variety and abundance.
	Clearwater (Idaho)	Orofino (Idaho)	1,870,000	
	Nezperce (Idaho)	Grangeville (Idaho)		
Absaroka Wild Area	Absaroka	Livingston	64,000	High mountain area, mainly wooded, typical peaks. Very good fishing, fair hunting, especially for moose.
Cabinet Mountains Wild Area	Cabinet	Thompson Falls		A lofty, peak-studded area of scenic grandeur. Big game and wild flowers in abundance.
	Kootenai	Libby	90,000	

Montana (Continued)

Name	National Forest	Headquarters	Area (Acres)	Special Features
Mission Mountains Wild Area	Flathead	Kalispell	75,500	High mountainous area of alpine lakes, glaciers, and peaks and containing unique glacial evidence. Grizzly bear and mountain goats plentiful.
Spanish Peaks Wild Area	Gallatin	Bozeman	50,000	Wild but not too rough topography. Fishing is outstanding.
		New Mexico		
Black Range Wilderness Area	Gila	Silver City	169,984	Rough, forested terrain providing good trout fishing and hunting, including the best deer and bear hunting in New Mexico.
Gila Wilderness Area	Gila	Silver City	572,204	Topography is rough to precipitous with many deep box canyons. Hunting and trout fishing is good.
Pecos Division Wilderness Area	Santa Fe	Santa Fe	137,820	High back country adjoining an area of high recreational use, accessible to southwestern Kansas, west Texas, and Oklahoma.
San Pedro Parks Wild Area	Santa Fe	Santa Fe	41,132	A high plateau containing numerous old pueblos, cliff dwellings, and other evidence of historic and prehistoric Indian occupancy.
White Mountain Wild Area	Lincoln	Alamogorodo	24,000	A variety of mountain scenery and forest cover types is represented. Elevation 6,000 to 11,000 feet.

Oregon

Name	National Forest	Headquarters	Area (Acres)	Special Features
Eagle Cap Wilderness Area	Wallowa Whitman	Enterprise Baker	220,280	Embraces some of the highest peaks (to 10,000 feet) and includes some of the best fishing waters in eastern Oregon.
Three Sisters Wilderness Area	Deschutes Willamette	Bend Eugene	246,728	Includes the Three Sisters mountains and numerous peaks and glaciers, one of which, the Collier, is the largest in Oregon.
Mt. Hood Wild Area	Mt. Hood	Portland	14,160	Occupies the high country north and west of the summit of famous Mt. Hood, with two outstanding alpine meadow exhibits.
Mt. Jefferson Wild Area	Deschutes Mt. Hood Willamette	Bend Portland Eugene	86,700	Snow-capped Mt. Jefferson, with perpetual glaciers is main feature. Second highest peak in Oregon.
Mountain Lakes Wild Area	Rogue River	Medford	23,071	A rugged area 80% of which is between 6,000 and 7,000 foot elevation.

Utah

High Uintas Wilderness Area	Ashley Wasatch	Vernal Salt Lake City	343,957	A wild, picturesque region in the Uinta range, the highest in Utah and the only prominent east-west range in the United States. Rich in scenic, geological, and biological interest.

Washington

Name	National Forest	Headquarters	Area (Acres)	Special Features
North Cascade Wilderness Area	Chelan Mt. Baker	Okanogan Bellingham	801,000	An area to satisfy the demands of the most strenuous wilderness seeker, where he can travel for months without retracing his steps.
Goat Rocks Wild Area	Columbia Snoqualmie	Vancouver Seattle	82,680	Exceedingly precipitous peaks, glaciers, several large lakes and a great profusion of mountain flora occur. Mountain goats are abundant.

Wyoming

Bridger Wilderness Area	Wyoming	Kemmerer	383,000	Includes barren, grassland, water and timbered areas, rising to 13,785 feet at the summit of Gannett Peak, the highest in Wyoming.
Glacier Wilderness Area	Washakie	Lander	177,000	Of extremely rugged topography, including Fremont Peak, innumerable alpine lakes, and some of the largest living glaciers in the United States.
North Absaroka Wilderness Area	Shoshone	Cody	379,460	Includes glaciers, a natural bridge, standing petrified trees, and affords excellent hunting, fishing, and camping.

Name	National Forest	Headquarters	Area (Acres)	Special Features
Stratified Wilderness Area	Washakie	Lander	147,000	A region of narrow valleys and broad flat topped mountains, built up of lava flow. Rich in petrified forest remains and abounds in game of relative tameness.
Teton Wilderness Area	Teton	Jackson	565,291	Outstanding in the amount of big game. An area of high plateaus, large valleys, and mountain meadows that can be traversed without undue danger.
Cloud Peak Wild Area	Bighorn	Sheridan	94,000	Rugged, precipitous country rising to 13,165 feet.
Popo Agie Wild Area	Washakie	Lander	70,000	Extremely rough topography along the Continental Divide. Contains seventy-five lakes and is rich in historical lore.